

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A fuel cell, comprising:

an electrolyte comprising at least one proton conductor, the electrolyte including at least one ion exchange membrane;

a fuel electrode provided on a first side of the electrolyte;

an oxidant electrode provided on a second side of the electrolyte;

at least one internal electrode provided in the electrolyte; and

an electric voltage application means provided either between the internal electrode and the fuel electrode or between the internal electrode and the oxidant electrode.

Claim 2 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the internal electrode is a single layer.

Claim 3 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the internal electrode comprises a plurality of layers.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising at least one fuel selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methanol, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 6 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the electric voltage application means comprises at least one potentiostat electrically connected between the internal electrode and the fuel electrode.

Claim 7 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the electric voltage application means comprises at least one potentiostat electrically connected between the internal electrode and the oxidant electrode.

Claim 8 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the potential of the internal electrode layer is controlled by a potentiostat electrically connected between the internal electrode and the fuel electrode.

Claim 9 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the potential of the internal electrode layer is controlled by a potentiostat electrically connected between the internal electrode and the oxidant electrode.

Claim 10 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the internal electrode comprises particles of one or more catalysts on one or more supports and sandwiched by a plurality of proton conductors.

Claim 11 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the internal electrode comprises particles of one or more catalysts on one or more supports and sandwiched by a plurality of proton conductors, and wherein said catalyst comprises platinum.

Claim 12 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the electrolyte comprises a high polymer solid electrolyte.

Claim 13 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising one or more collectors.

Claim 14 (Original): The fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising a conduit means for transporting one or more fluids selected from the group consisting of fuel, hydrogen, methanol, oxygen, air, water, and a mixture thereof to or from the fuel cell.

Claim 15 (Original): A method for generating electricity, comprising contacting at least one fuel and at least one oxidant with the fuel cell as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 16 (Original): A method for making the fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, comprising electrically connecting the electric voltage application means between the internal electrode and the fuel electrode or between the internal electrode and the oxidant electrode.

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 16, wherein the electric voltage application means comprises at least one potentiostat electrically connected between the internal electrode and the fuel electrode or between the internal electrode and the oxidant electrode.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method for controlling a fuel cell, the fuel cell comprising:

an electrolyte comprising at least one proton conductor, the electrolyte including at least one ion exchange membrane;

a fuel electrode provided on a first side of the electrolyte;

an oxidant electrode provided on a second side of the electrolyte;

at least one internal electrode provided in the electrolyte;

the method comprising:

controlling a movement of the fuel or the oxidant in the electrolyte by applying an electric voltage either between the internal electrode and the fuel electrode or between the internal electrode and the oxidant electrode.

Claim 19 (Original): The method according to claim 18, wherein the electric voltage is controlled by at least one potentiostat.

Claim 20 (New): The fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the electric voltage application means is electrically connected to the internal electrode.